DRAPER DIGEST

PUBLISHED BY—
DRAPER CORPORATION
HOPEDALE, MASS., U. S. A.

WORLD'S LARGEST MANUFACTURER
OF AUTOMATIC LOOMS.

NUMBER 6 JANUARY 1952

The Draper Loom Sets the World's Weaving Standards

"I would suggest that the answer (to the best in modern loom design) is to be found across the Atlantic for most practical purposes. In the best American sheds the weaving standards for today are being set."

This is the testimony of an unbiased Englishman as expressed in an address at the 1951 conference of the British Textile Institute at Brighton. This testimony to the leadership of American looms and American weaving was given by Mr. E. Cotterill of Courtauld's.

In the course of his talk, as published in the July number of "The Textile Manufacturer" of Manchester, he

made a critical analysis of important features of looms currently offered by American and European continental loom-builders. His shrewd comments will be of interest to manufacturers planning to modernize their mills.

American Looms Severely Practical

After starting with the interesting comment that the advance guards in loom design have taken different paths, he continues: "The American makers concede nothing towards making looms attractive or elaborate, their looms are severely practical, simple and refined, chiefly in the sense of utilizing metal to the best advantage, so that American looms appear both light in structure and also ideally adapted for operation at reasonably high speeds. * * Plainly the expectation is that the loom is part of a logically planned system of cloth manufacture in which the loom plays its part, but in which the warp and weft must break as seldom as possible."

A Loom Encrusted with Mechanisms

In contrast he finds that the continental designer of looms "has a different approach and would appear to delight in his own ingenuity. The result is a series of remarkable machines with each succeeding model becoming more and more ***encrusted with mechanism.***"

This loom designer he adds, appears to have taken all the responsibility for making the automatic weaving system work, but he admits it may be argued he was aiming at "quality cloth in structures which Americans would not normally tolerate in their stream-lined weaving sheds. Be this as it may, the American system produces at high levels of efficiency an acceptable range of textiles."

With reference to one type of continental loom, he names as possible weaknesses "the precision needed to manipulate the weft and the gripper shuttle. They may make for expensive design and *temperamental performance.*"

Standards Being Set in American Weave Sheds

"How far then has orthodox loom design gone? I would suggest that the answer is to be found across the Atlantic for most practical purposes. In the best American sheds the weaving standards for today are being set; yesterday's standards, established on non-automatic looms, may still be good enough in Britain to pass muster in these exceptional times, but they may not suffice tomorrow. On quality alone, a good automatic, backed by intelligent preparation, will beat the best non-automatic loom."

The Future of Loom Design

Coming back to the main subject of his talk, "The Future of Loom Designers," Mr. Cotterill says:

"I suggest that if we draw up a specification for the machine that would meet our ideals as far as we can foresee our needs today, we might well be putting the germ of our future loom in some loom designer's mind."

An excellent idea! But though it may be new to our friends across the sea, it is 100 years old with Draper—as old as the research department set up by George Draper in the 50's of the last century.

From the first those early researchers put down on paper any suggestions of needed or possible improvements to existing machines, their aspirations and inspirations to something new. These notations became a daily guide to achievement.

The Northrop loom came from a planned campaign by Draper researchers and inventors for the building of an automatic loom. It took eight years to produce the first marketable automatic, but success was assured when James Northrop, one of the working staff, developed the basic principle of the Northrop bobbin transfer.

Revolution and Evolution

The Northrop loom started a revolution in the art of weaving.

But the benefits of a revolution are worked out in the evolution that follows.

More than fifty years of directed evolution have changed that first automatic loom, good only for print cloth, into the complete line of Draper loom models for every fabric woven with one shuttle from cotton, wool, silk and man-made fibers. Draper directed evolution has made the Draper loom the recognized world leader for economical and efficient one-shuttle weaving.

In the field of building production machines for industry, man-directed evolution has periodically produced improved machines that have marked every forward step of America's industrial progress; and in a well organized research corps man-directed evolution has always reacted upon those who direct it by educating and equipping them for new achievement and inspiring them to improve and perfect what they have already made.

Copies of Draper looms are being built in several countries. They are copies only, built by men without the experienced know-how behind the Draper product.

Mr. Cotterill stated only a fact when he said:

"In the best American sheds the weaving standards for today are being set."

Printed in U. S. A.